

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending in the application. Claims 9 and 24 have been amended. Claim 31 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-31 are pending in the application.

The Examiner objected to claims 9 and 24. Applicant has amended claims 9 and 24 to overcome these objections.

Claims 12-13, 19-20, 23, 25, and 29 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates Examiner's consideration of these claims.

35 U.S.C. 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 6, 15-16, 18, 21-22, 24, 26, 28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yanai et al. (U.S. Patent # 5,742,792). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yanai teaches "system which provides a geographically remote mirrored data storage system which contains generally identical information to that stored on a primary data storage system." (Yanai, Column 7, Lines 37-40) Specifically, Yanai teaches "Should one volume in the remote mirrored pair fail, the data storage system automatically uses the other volume without interruption...When the defective disk device is replaced, the data storage system re-synchronizes the mirrored pair, automatically copying data to the new disk." (Yanai, Column 27, Lines 49-59)

Yanai also teaches "The dynamic sparing option, when enabled, determines when a primary (R1) or secondary (R2) volume is about to fail and copies the contents (all volumes) of the disk drive on which that volume resides to an available spare...The data storage system...also notifies

the customer support center of the storage system manufacturer so that physical replacement of the failing disk drive can be scheduled. The data storage system uses the spare until the disk drive on which the original logical volume resided can be replaced.” (Yanai, Column 28, Lines 40-52) Furthermore, in Yanai, “When the failing or failed disk drive is physically replaced, the data storage system makes the volume(s) on the new disk drive ready, disables the spare, and dynamically copies the contents of the other volume in the remotely mirrored pair to the new disk drive.” (Yanai, Column 29, Lines 9-13)

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that Yanai fails to teach or suggest “said processor, said system memory, said network interface, said one or more drive controllers, and said array of disk drives are configured not to be individually field serviceable or field replaceable” as recited in claim 1. In accordance, independent claim 1 is believed to patentably distinguish over Yanai.

Claim 6 depends on claim 1 and is therefore believed to patentably distinguish over Yanai for at least the reasons given above.

In addition, independent claims 15, 24, and 30 recite features similar to those highlighted above with regard to independent claim 1 and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over Yanai for at least the reasons given in the above paragraphs discussing claim 1. Claims 16, 18, 21 and claims 26, 28 depend on claim 15 and claim 24, respectively, and are therefore believed to patentably distinguish over Yanai for the same reasons.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that Yanai fails to teach or suggest “assembling a processor, network interface and array of disk drives as a single field replaceable unit (FRU) so that said processor, said network interface, and said array of disk drives are configured not to be individually field serviceable or field replaceable” and “replacing said single field replaceable unit as a whole upon failure, wherein said single field replaceable unit has no

serviceable internal parts” as recited in claim 22. In accordance, independent claim 22 is believed to patentably distinguish over Yanai.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully requests examination of added claim 31, which is believed to patentably distinguish over Yanai.

Applicant respectfully submits that Yanai fails to teach or suggest “said field replaceable unit is sealed to prevent said processor, said system memory, said network interface, said one or more drive controllers, and said array of disk drives from being separately field replaceable” as recited in claim 31. In accordance, independent claim 31 is believed to patentably distinguish over Yanai.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanai in view of Kabenjian et al. (U.S. Patent 5,682,509). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant believes claim 2 is allowable as dependent on claim 1, which is believed allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

Claims 3, 4, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanai in view of Lui et al. (U.S. Patent 5,812,754). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant believes claims 3, 4, and 7 are allowable as dependent on claim 1, which is believed allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

Claims 5, 17, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanai in view of Microsoft Computer Dictionary 3rd edition. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant believes claim 5, claim 17, and claim 27 are allowable as dependent on claim 1, claim 15, and claim 24, respectively, which are believed allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

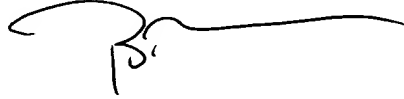
Claims 8-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yanai in view of Ledain et al. (U.S. Patent 5,996,054). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant believes claims 8-11 are allowable as dependent on claim 1, which is believed allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Stalley et al. (U.S. Patent 5,663,868). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant believes claim 14 is allowable as dependent on claim 1, which is believed allowable for at least the above stated reasons.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If a phone interview would speed allowance of any pending claims, such is requested at the Examiner's convenience.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5681-76600/BNK.

Respectfully submitted,



B. Noël Kivlin
Reg. No. 33,929
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, Texas 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: January 21, 2004